

Mysterious Crop Circle



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Some Hypotheses

- 1. Mysterious crop circles are caused by the actions of aliens from outer space.*
- 2. Mysterious crop circles are caused by weird weather phenomena.*
- 3. Mysterious crop circles are caused by hoaxers.*
- 4. Some mysterious crop circles are caused in one way, others in other ways.*
- 5. Mysterious crop circles do not have causes; nothing causes them.*



The Principle of Universal Causation (PUC)

PUC: Every event has a cause.



‘E1 is the cause of E2’ is roughly equivalent to ‘E1 is an event; E2 is an event; E1 occurs before E2; and E1 makes E2 occur’



The Free Will Thesis (FWT)

FWT: Sometimes people do things freely.



*‘S performed action A freely’ is roughly equivalent to
‘S performed action A, but S could have done
otherwise; S could have avoided performing A’*

‘S is the source of S’s action’



Finger-Wiggling Experiment



Where We Stand

After reflecting on the story about mysterious crop circles, everyone is inclined to accept PUC.*

After reflecting on the finger-wiggling experiment, everyone is inclined to accept FWT.*

**Except for a few hardcore wiseguys.*



An Argument for Incompatibility of PUC and FWT

- 1. Every event has a cause. (PUC)*
- 2. If every event has a cause, then determinism is true.*
- 3. If determinism is true, then nobody ever acts freely.*
- 4. Therefore, nobody ever acts freely. (denial of FWT)*

Determinism: The facts about the past and the laws of nature entail every truth about the future.



- *The BB $\hookrightarrow c1 \hookrightarrow \dots \hookrightarrow cn-1 \hookrightarrow cn \hookrightarrow$ Scott Drinks*



- *Compatibilism: Freewill and determinism are compatible. (Deny 3)*



- *Incompatibilism: Freewill and determinism are incompatible.*
- *Libertarianism: We have freewill. So determinism is false. (Deny 2 or 1).*
- *Hard Determinism: Determinism is true. So we don't have freewill. (Accept Argument)*
- *Hard Incompatibilism: There is no freewill if determinism is true. There is no freewill if determinism is false.*



Radical Indeterminism

- *D1: a is a free action just in case a is an action that has no cause.*
 - *There are some free actions.*
- *People are morally responsible for their own free actions as well as the consequences of those actions.*



Act Diagram for Indeterminism

a1: Leo's act of shooting

c1: The gun fires

c2: The Great Leader is shot

c3: The Great Leader dies

-/-> a1 ☾ c1 ☾ c2 ☾ c3



An Argument against Radical Indeterminism

- 1. If Radical Indeterminism is true, then Leo is morally responsible for assassinating the Great Leader.*
- 2. Leo is not morally responsible for assassinating the Great Leader.*
- 3. Therefore, Radical Indeterminism is not true.*



Soft Determinism

D1: e is a volition =df. e is an act of willing, choosing, or intending to do some act.

D2: e is a standard volition =df. e is a volition, and e is caused by the beliefs and desires of the agent.

D3: a is a voluntary action =df. a is an action that is caused by a standard volition.



A Typical Form of Soft Determinism

- A. Every event has a cause. (PUC)*
- B. There are some voluntary actions. (FWT')*
- C. People are morally responsible for their own voluntary actions, as well as for the consequences of those actions.*
- D. Whenever a person performs a voluntary action, and is responsible for that action, s/he was caused to perform that action, and could not have done anything else instead.*



Act Diagram for Soft Determinism

bd: Bob wants \$\$ and believes he can get it by robbing the convenience store

v: Bob wills, chooses, or intends to rob the store

a1: Bob robs the convenience store

c1: Mr. Convenience is very unhappy

? ◌ bd ◌ v ◌ a1 ◌ c1



Act Diagram for Poor Paula's Act

ufo1: Aliens plant chip in Paula's brain

bd: Paula wants to kill Great Leader; thinks she can

v: Paula wills, chooses or intends to kill Great Leader

a1: Paula pulls the trigger

c1: The gun goes off

c2: The Great Leader is shot

c3: The Great Leader dies

ufo1 ☾ *bd* ☾ *v* ☾ *c1* ☾ *c2* ☾ *c3*




An Argument against Soft Determinism

- 1. If Soft Determinism is true, then Poor Paula is morally responsible for assassinating the Great Leader.*
- 2. It is not the case that Poor Paula is morally responsible for assassinating the Great Leader.*
- 3. Therefore, it is not the case that Soft Determinism is true.*



The Argument from Logical Fatalism

1. *I clap my hands at noon today.*
 2. *Necessarily, if I clap my hands at noon today, then it was true in 1000 AD that I would clap my hands at noon today.*
 3. *If it was true in 1000 AD that I would clap my hands at noon today, then it was never within my power to prevent its being true in 1000 AD that I would clap my hands at noon today.*
 4. *Therefore, it was never within my power to prevent its being true that I would clap my hands at noon today.*
 5. *Its being true in 1000 AD that I would clap my hands at noon today entails that I clap my hands at noon today.*
 6. *If (4) and (5), then it was never within my power to avoid clapping my hands today.*
 7. *If it was never within my power to avoid clapping my hands at noon today, then I did not clap my hands freely.*
 8. *Therefore, I did not clap my hands freely.*
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*The Principle of the Fixity of the Past
(FP): We have no power over the past.*

*The Transfer of Powerlessness Principle
(TP): If I'm powerless over one thing, and that thin entails a second thing, then I'm powerless over the second thing.*

*The Principle of Alternative Possibilities
(PAP): I'm morally responsible for performing an action only if I could have done otherwise.*



The Principle of Alternative Possibilities

(PAP): An agent is morally responsible for performing a given act A only if he or she could have done otherwise.



The Argument Against PAP

- 1. If PAP is true, then Jones is not morally responsible for voting for Obama.*
- 2. But Jones is morally responsible for voting for Obama.*
- 3. So, PAP is false.*

